

Artist Biography

My name is Jaimie LaPine and I am a seventh semester student at Berklee College of Music. I can't pinpoint the exact age that I began my career in music, but I know that I made my debut singing "The Eensy Weensy Spider," "Ba Ba Black Sheep," and "The A, B, C's," at my aunts wedding when I was 18 Months old.

From then on, no one could ever shut me up! When I was a kid my favorite musical group was The Spice Girls. I adored The Spice Girls for their air of power and energy, and for their strength and beauty. They made me think that I could be anything.

My biggest musical influences have always been my parents. My father is a tenor sax player and my mother a singer. I was always surrounded by music as a child with my father constantly practicing and playing jazz albums and my mother singing to me. I was on a Girl Scout camping trip when I was 8 years old and one of the younger girls in our troop was afraid to be away from her mother for the first time and couldn't get to sleep. My mom came into our tent and sang us all to sleep that night. I was too young to appreciate what she was doing for me at the time, but as I've grown up I've realized that she instilled in me an unwavering love of music and singing.

Though my parents were constantly exposing me to music, they weren't the only ones. I spent every weekend at my grandparent's houses when I was a child while my parents were gigging on Friday and Saturday nights. My Poppy has told me stories about how he would put me in the swing under his porch and sing with me for hours when I was a baby. I also have countless childhood videos of my grandmother bouncing me on her lap and singing songs to me.

As I grew older, it became a tradition for my grandfather to take me to Saturday morning mass where the youth choir would sing. When I turned 11 years old I joined the youth choir, which I remain a member of today. There I developed many musical abilities that I find invaluable today. First, I learned to read music. At first I only understood that the dots I was looking at seemed to go up on the page when I sang higher, and lower on the page when I sang lower. Eventually I learned what the dots represented and how notated music worked. I attribute my rapid acquiring of this knowledge to the fact that I was the youngest member of the youth choir (most members being 15 or older) and I was desperate to out do them. When I got to high school, I could already read and sight read notated music and play parts on the piano with a measly 6 months of formal piano training under my belt and years of self-teaching. Another incredibly important skill I learned as a result of youth choir was the ability to learn new music extremely quickly. We would have rehearsal 1 hour before mass each week, and at each rehearsal we would learn 5 new songs for that weeks mass.

It didn't take long for me to acquire a leadership role within the choir. By the beginning of 8th grade I was a frequent soloist and I helped other members of the choir learn their parts. I was relied upon as a core member and was sorely missed when I couldn't make mass. By the end of high school I was running many aspects of the youth choir, teaching younger members and officially cantering. I was called on to sing many different masses including being hired for weddings, funerals, baptisms, communions etc.

Throughout high school I was active in all aspects of the music department. I was in the marching band, symphonic band, concert choir, madrigal choir, spring musicals and Tri-M. The best part of my high school music experience was my involvement in state and regional choirs. My junior and senior years I was a member of the Connecticut Western Region and Allstate choirs. There I studied for 4 weekends under world-class choral conductors, college choral directors and a group of fantastic high school music directors. I had the opportunity to study, analyze and perform highly complex choral pieces that greatly increased my musicianship. Also, the friends and musical contacts that I met at these conferences I still know today.

I have performed in High School, College and Community Theater Productions of Seussical The Musical, Grease, The Music Man, The Wiz, Pippin, Spelling Bee and more. I have produced benefit concerts and community service performances that have raised thousands of dollars for various charity organizations such as Save The Children, The Shelter of the Cross and The Connecticut Burn Care Foundation.

Most of my formal vocal training has been in classical and musical theater, but in my sophomore year my band director, Gary Ruggiero, gave me the opportunity to perform and compete with the high school Jazz band. I traveled to a Fiesta Val competition in Virginia Beach and won first place as a jazz vocal soloist. This experience is what made me fall in love with singing Jazz and contemporary music. After this competition, Gary introduced me to the world of the contemporary musician. He invited me to perform at a community event with his wedding band "Funkestra," and asked me to join his Jazz studies class. Gary is the reason I came to Berklee. He was a Berklee grad, and he introduced me to the school. If it weren't for his guidance and interest in me, I would not have taken this path. I am extremely grateful to him for this.

Since entering Berklee I have performed with the Musical Theater Club in *South Park in Concert*, the original cast production of Michael Wartofsky's *The River is Me*, *Curtain Up* an original musical theater revue, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Menken: A Disney Revue*, and I music directed *A Night with Ahrens and Flaherty* and Assistant Directed *Menken: A Disney Revue*. I have performed with The Concert Choir At Berklee in a Video Game orchestra concert and with Pianist Nick Petrillo at various private events. I performed with Harmony professor Lucy Holstedt in the Fall 2009 Harmony Department Faculty Concert and I co-lead a recital entitled *Butterfly* with guitarist Glen Cheney in which I was the arranger and lead vocalist. I was hired as the vocal music director for Danbury High Schools productions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Unrinetown*, and I teach private voice lessons. My SATB a cappella arrangement of Randy Newmans *When She Loved Me* was selected to be performed in the Spring 2010 CWP student concert in the Berklee Performance Center. Next week, I will be performing in the 14th annual Women Musicians network concert with R&B vocalist Liz Lohnes as a background vocalist on her original song *Vera's Lullaby*.

I worked as a Peer Advisor through the Counseling and Advising Center from Fall 2009-10 and as a vocalist for Michael Wartofsky's Musical Theater Writing 1 & 2 classes from Spring 2008 to Fall 2009. I worked as an assistant administrator at the Berklee City Music Preparatory Academy from Fall 2008 to Spring 2010 and I currently work there as a private voice and choir teacher.

My dream since I was 10 years old has been to teach music. I am currently pursuing a dual major in Music Education and Contemporary Writing and Production so that eventually I can teach high school and college music, and write and arrange my own music. I music direct and arrange for a band that plays pop, rock, R&B and soul covers and my original songs so that I can get more performing, arranging and music directing experience. I am looking forward to the rest of my career here at Berklee and to a challenging and exciting next few years.